

# **Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)**

## **Steering Committee Meeting**

November 16, 2007, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
Resources Agency Bldg., Room 1311

### **Draft Meeting Notes**

#### **Associated documents/handouts:**

- Agenda
- Steering Committee 10/05/07 Draft Meeting Notes
- Steering Committee 10/19/07 Draft Meeting Notes
- Steering Committee 10/19/07 Draft Meeting Notes
- BDCP Point of Agreement for Continuing into the Planning Process (11/13 version)

#### **Action Items and Key Decisions**

- BDCP management team will incorporate members' comments to the Points of Agreement document and submit the final document next week.

#### **Meeting Notes Review**

10/5 notes approved pending minor changes to attendance list.

10/19 notes approved with no changes.

11/2 notes approved pending minor changes to description of discussion of Points of Agreement document.

The Steering Committee (SC) was reminded that all SC meetings have been recorded to ensure that the meeting notes are accurate. There was agreement among members that those recordings should be kept until the notes are approved, then discarded.

#### **Updates**

- Timeline for California water bond measures has been modified, so that planning conversation will continue.
- Delta Vision Committee, Chaired by Secretary Chrisman, met on 11/15 to receive updates on the various Delta planning processes. Will Stelle presented an update on BDCP that was well-received by the committee. Paul Cylinder, Dale Myers, and Carl Wilcox of BDCP also attended the meeting.
- DFG announced that the Ecosystem Restoration Program Stage 2 Strategy document is nearing completion. An administrative draft is available internally today, and a public draft will be released 11/30. DFG will brief Karen Scarborough on the strategy, and will give a presentation to BDCP either 11/30 or 12/14.
- NOAA Fisheries reported that the Notice of Intent to prepare an EIR/EIS for BDCP is being reviewed in Washington, D.C., and will likely be published in the Federal Register within the next six weeks.
- The SLDMWA signed a contract with DFG to administer grant monies for BDCP public outreach. Administrative details on the contract with the Public Outreach

consultant, Jones & Stokes, for the BDCP will be completed before the next SC meeting.

- The final Independent Science Advisors report will be emailed to SC members today. Comments to the report were received from members and SAIC; a summary of those comments will be prepared by the science liaisons and made available to SC representatives.
- Public Officials for Water and Environmental Reform (POWER) held a conference 11/14-11/15, at which several BDCP members were in attendance. Those members were reminded that communication of the BDCP process to the public is important. The BDCP public outreach consultants, along with the BDCP Public Outreach workgroup and Sandy Cooney (Deputy Secretary of Communications for The Resources Agency) will be working to develop a strong, clear message, and appropriate associated outreach materials for BDCP in the near future.
- The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) will hold a board meeting on 12/04 at which it will vote on two resolutions, both available online:
  - Delta Smelt Refuge project in collaboration with DFG, to be funded by SWRCB from their cleanup and abatement account (\$600K)
  - Proposed water rights and water quality actions that it recommends as appropriate activities over next 3-4 years for SWRCB staff

### **Review and discussion of Points of Agreement document**

Will Stelle presenting. The document has been intensively reviewed and edited by members of the SC and management team. The description of the conveyance system is intended for the purposes of initiating development of the Conservation Strategy and is subject to review and analysis in the planning process. It is not intended to be used as an endorsement of specific conveyance operations (e.g., as justification for funding specific actions prior to approval of the BDCP). The description of the conveyance is not intended to resemble Option 3 from the Options Evaluation report prepared by SAIC.

SC members engaged in extensive discussion on the details of the document. The language in various parts of the document was edited to reflect the full range of opinions voiced. The management team will incorporate the agreed-upon language and distribute the final document to SC members next week via email. The SC approved by consensus the Points of Agreement document, pending those changes.

John McCamman (DFG) and Russ Strach (NOAA Fisheries), provided a statement that use of a north Delta diversion and peripheral conveyance facilities component should be primary method for conveying water for export (handout attached).

The next step in the BDCP development process will be establishing biological goals and objectives.

The analytical tools used to test the range of operations of the potential water conveyance system will be discussed at a future time within BDCP to help support regulatory decision-making.

## **Public Comment**

Barbara Byrne. Planning and Conservation League (PCL). It is important to be explicit in the BDCP documents because they are interpreted in the public media. Also, governance structure is key to effective implementation of regional conservation plans, as discussed yesterday at the Delta Committee. PCL encourages BDCP to start discussing it as soon as appropriate. There is a tradeoff: the more sensitive the plan is to adaptive management, the more complicated the governance structure is likely to be. To ensure simplicity, a precautionary plan may be appropriate, though it may be less appealing to some members.

## **Next Meeting**

Friday 11/30/07, same time and location. 12/28/07 meeting canceled for the holidays

## **Meeting attendees**

### *Representatives and management*

Karen Scarborough (Chair, The Resources Agency)

Will Stelle (The Resources Agency)

Chris Scheuring (CFBF)

Susan Moore (USFWS)

Tom Howard (SWRCB)

Randall Neudeck (Met)

Jason Peltier (Westlands)

Marc Ebbin (The Resources Agency/DWR)

Cindy Darling (The Resources Agency)

Gary Bobker (The Bay Institute)

Dale Myers (Zone 7)

Frank Michny (USBR)

Ara Azhderian (SLDMWD)

Anthony Saracino (TNC)

Campbell Ingram (TNC)

Greg Thomas (NHI)

Ann Hayden (Environmental Defense)

Greg Gartrell (CCWD)

Jerry Johns (DWR)

Brent Walthall (Kern County Water District)

Russ Strach (NOAA Fisheries)

John McCamman (DFG)

Paul Cylinder (SAIC)

Laura King Moon (State Water Contractors)

### *Representatives and management by phone*

Karla Nemeth (Zone 7)

Tracy Ligon (Santa Clara Valley)

### *Additional attendees*

See sign-in sheets